



NEWS RELEASE

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PRESIDENT CLINTON NOMINATES PHYLLIS FONG TO SERVE AS SBA INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton has nominated Phyllis K. Fong as Inspector General of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Ms. Fong currently serves as the SBA's Assistant Inspector General for Management and Legal Counsel.

"Phyllis Fong is one of SBA's most distinguished career professionals," said SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez. "She has a depth and breadth of experience in the Inspector General's office that will make her an exceptional leader for the office."

Ms. Fong has been with the SBA for fifteen years. She instituted the first internal quality assessment process in the IG's office in the early 1980s – several years before Congress required such reviews for agency "watchdogs." Her efforts to organize and modernize the management functions of the office won her the SBA's "Employee of the Year" award in 1989.

She has worked her way up the management ladder, starting in 1983 as Associate Counsel. In 1988, she assumed responsibility for the management and administration of the office as Assistant Inspector General for Management and Policy. She has served in her current position since 1994.

Ms. Fong will bring to the position a distinguished personal and family history of public service, including small business experience. Her great uncle, Senator Hiram Fong, was Hawaii's first United States

Senator, serving from 1959 to 1977. Her grandfather, Leonard Fong, was an auditor and CPA who held positions in local government in Honolulu and with the SBA during the Eisenhower administration. Her father, Dr. Bernard Fong, is a cardiologist and small businessman in Honolulu.

The Inspector General's office is responsible for conducting independent audits and investigations and reviews of all SBA activities to prevent fraud and abuse and to recommend ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of SBA programs and operations.

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Most recently, the IG's office played an important role in the development of SBA's HUBZone regulations (Historically Underutilized Business Zones). The IG's office has also participated, in an advisory capacity, in the development of SBA's strategic and performance plans under the Government Performance and Results Act.

Ms. Fong is a native of Hawaii and a graduate of Pomona College and Vanderbilt University School of Law. She resides with her husband, Paul Tellier, and their daughter, Elana, in Bethesda, Maryland.

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The U.S. Small Business Administration, established in 1953, provides financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their businesses. With a portfolio of business loans, loan guarantees and disaster loans worth more than \$45 billion, the SBA is the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses. Last year, the SBA offered management and technical assistance to more than one million small business owners. The SBA also plays a major role in the government's disaster relief efforts by making low-interest recovery loans to both homeowners and businesses.

America's 23 million small businesses employ more than 50 percent of the private workforce, generate more than half of the nation's gross domestic product, and are the principal source of new jobs in the U.S. economy.

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